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SUBJECT The Bombay Workers' and Peasants' Party and
 its Leading Personalities

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1. The Bombay Workers' and Peasants' Party (BWPP), according to an article in the 2 June 1950 Times of India, Bombay*, has decided to follow the guidance of the Cominform as a Marxist-Leninist Party.
2. This does not mean that the BWPP has joined hands with the Communist Party of India (CPI). The BWPP styles itself the party of true interpretation of Marxist-Leninist-Stalinist principles, and claims that the CPI has adopted the attitude of the petite bourgeoisie at the instigation of middle class leaders and that it is in truth a party of the ultra left.
3. The leader and organizer of the BWPP is one Keshavrao Jedhe. He began his career some ten years ago in several strong anti-Brahmin organizations in Maharashtra. Later on he went to Delhi as a strong supporter of the Congress. It is stated that it was his intention to strengthen the Maharashtra position in the center. Because of personality clashes he was highly unsuccessful although one of his staunchest comrades-in-arms was N. V. Gadgil, the present Minister for Works, Mines and Power in the Central Cabinet. Gadgil is said to have forgotten his friendship with Jedhe when he received his appointment.
4. Jedhe returned to Bombay within the last several years to gather the nucleus of the present BWPP. This began as an anti-Marwari, anti-Brahmin and anti-Congress organization with leftist inclinations. Jedhe's second-in-command has been and is one Shankar Rao More, formerly a Congress supporter. More at one time was a strong supporter of a left wing movement within the Maharashtra Congress Party. Since the time he threw in with Jedhe, he has been avidly reading the works of Marx and Lenin and is said to be responsible for Jedhe's conversion to Communism.
5. Since the formal existence of the party, it has been a target for exploitation and capture by the CPI. At times Jedhe has seen fit to throw his party's weight behind the CPI, especially during the time of the debates in Delhi last year over the linguistic provinces issue. Jedhe favored the

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the Communists because the latter were lobbying for linguistic provinces. At that time Jedhe was mixed up in two associations--Bombay for Maharashtra, and the United Maharashtra--both of which advocated linguistic provinces and had been penetrated by Communists.

6. The CPI has overtly resisted Jedhe's advances, probably because of his strong pro-Maharashtrian sympathies. More recently, Jedhe attempted to form a United Front with the Socialists, half out of spite to the Communists, and half because it suited his political ends.
7. It appears that the BWPP has now found the middle ground by condemning the Socialists for their anti-Soviet inclinations and the CPI for its ultra-left stand.

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- * Comment. The full text of the Times of India (Bombay) report reads as follows:

CPYRGHT

BOMBAY WORKERS & PEASANTS PARTY

Marxist Programme

Nasik, June 1: The Workers and Peasants Party of Bombay has declared itself a "Marxist-Leninist" Party following the guidance of the Cominform.

The party, during its three-day conference at Dabhadi near Malegaon recently, adopted an 18,000 word thesis clarifying its own ideological position.

"We turned towards Marxism" the thesis says, "on the basis of experience we had had when we were passing through the struggle for national independence and the subsequent period."

The party's programme, as outlined in the thesis includes "severance of all connections with British imperialism, abolition of landlordism without compensation, confiscation of foreign capital invested in banks and industries."

It urges nationalization of big industries, banks and insurance companies and re-organization of provinces on a linguistic basis.

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